**Scale of the Cosmos Reading Assignment Focus Questions**

1. Define the following:

Scientific Notation:

Astronomical Unit:

Light-year (ly):

Milky Way:

Solar System:

Local Group:

Super Cluster:

Star Field:

Galaxy:

2. Why are astronomical units and light-years more convenient for measuring astronomical distances than miles or kilometers?

3. In what ways is our universe changing?

4. Why do all stars, except for the Sun, look like points of light as seen from Earth?

5. Why are we unable to see planets beyond the eight in our solar system?

6. Which planet is closest to the Sun? Which is farthest from the Sun?

7. What celestial body is at times, closer to the Sun than Neptune? Why does this happen?

8. In photographs, some stars look larger than others. Why is this?

9. How long does it take light to cross our galaxy? How long to cross the Local Group of galaxies?

10. How many planets inhabited by intelligent life do you think the universe contains? Explain your answer.

11. How many Earths would it take, laid edge to edge, to reach the moon?